

REMARKS

Claims 39-58 are pending in the present application, and new claims 59-62 have been added. By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 39-58 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these canceled claims in a continuation or divisional application.

Applicants have added new claims 59-62. Claims 59 and 60 are an independent form of claim 48, except that claim 59 recites SEQ ID NO:1 and claim 60 recites SEQ ID NO:2. Claims 59 and 60 incorporate all of the elements of claims 45, 46, and 47. Claims 61 and 62 are an independent form of claim 53, except that claim 61 recites SEQ ID NO:5 and claim 62 recites SEQ ID NO:6. Claims 61 and 62 incorporate all of the elements of claims 50, 51, and 52.

The addition of claims 59-62 does not introduce new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of these claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

On page 2, the Office Action rejects claims 39, 41, and 43 as being anticipated by Christie *et al.* (1991), claims 39-44 as being anticipated by Tamkun *et al.* (1991), and claims 40, 42, and 44 as being anticipated by Leicher *et al.* (1996). Without agreeing or disagreeing with the rejections, Applicants have canceled claims 39-44 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejections of these claims moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

On pages 2-3, the Office Action rejects claims 43-44, 55, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without agreeing or disagreeing with the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 43-44, 55, and 58 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

On pages 3-7, the Office Action rejects claims 39-44 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to satisfy either the enablement requirement or the written

description requirement. Without agreeing or disagreeing with the rejections, Applicants have canceled claims 39-44 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejections of these claims moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

On pages 7-8, the Office Action rejects claims 45-47, 49-52, and 54-57 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,856,155. Without agreeing or disagreeing with the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 45-47, 49-52, and 54-57 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Objection to Claims 48 and 53

On page 8, the Office Action objects to claims 48 and 53 as being dependent upon rejected claims. The Office Action finds that claims 48 and 53 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

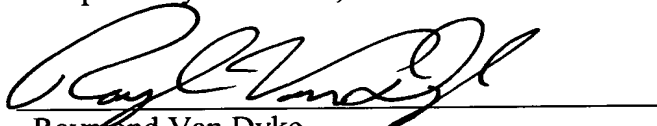
Applicants have rewritten claim 48 in independent form in claims 59 and 60, both of which include all of the elements of claims 45, 46 and 47 from which claim 48 depends. Applicants have also rewritten claim 53 in independent form in claims 61 and 62, both of which include all of the elements of claims 50, 51 and 52 from which claim 53 depends. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 59-62 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Although Applicants believe that no fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any payment deficiency to deposit account number 19-2380 referring to attorney docket number 031896-069100. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Van Dyke', is written over a horizontal line.

Raymond Van Dyke
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